

Message Text

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FOL BONN 07712 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MADRID LONDON
APRIL 25, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 07712

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FRIEDRICH, BRUNO), GW, PO, SP
SUBJECT: BRUNO FRIEDRICH VISIT TO WASHINGTON --
SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

REFS: (A) BONN 7281 (B) BONN 5303 (C) BONN 2545

1. DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DCM AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR YESTERDAY, BRUNO FRIEDRICH SAID THAT HE WANTED TO USE HIS WASHINGTON VISIT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A MAJOR PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

2. FRIEDRICH SAID THAT HE WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT THE WEAK SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE ECONOMIES WERE HAVING ON THE FLEDGLING DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES. HE SAID THAT THE WEST SHOULD TRY TO TURN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES AROUND IN ORDER TO ENSURE POLITICAL STABILITY.

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3. FRIEDRICH SAID HE DK NOT BELIEVE SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD INVOLVE HEAVY GOVERNMENT GRANTS BECAUSE THERE WAS A LOT OF LOAN MONEY AVAILABL FROM INDUSTRY. HE THOUGHT SUCH LOANS COULD ALSOBE TIED TO EXPORTS AND WOULD PROVE BENEFICIAL NOT ONLY TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL BUT ALSO TO THE WESTERN COUNTRIES PROVIDING THE ASSISTANCE. HE INDICATED HE

WAS INTERESTED IN INVESTMENT PROJECTS AS WELL AS OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE, BUT THAT HE HAD NOT YET REFINED HIS CONCEPT TO SPECIFIC DETAILS.

4. FRIEDRICH'S CENTRAL POINT WAS THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE A POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY WHICH THE WEST SHOULD NOT PERMIT TO PASS. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ABOUT IT.

5. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SPD DEPUTY HORST EHMKE, WHO HAD JUST VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN HIS FUNCTION AS LEADER OF THE SPD OFFICE FOR CONTACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES, SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SUCH A PROJECT IN WASHINGTON AND THAT HE WAS ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN IT.

6. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN REFTELS, FRIEDRICH HAS BEEN ONE OF THE SPD'S PRINCIPAL FIGURES IN CONTACTS WITH THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN PARTIES, INCLUDING THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS. HE BELIEVES THAT HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION OF PORTUGAL DURING THE DIFFICULT YEARS THERE. HE IS EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THOSE COUNTRIES AND APPEARS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN DOING SOMETHING FOR THEM. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR HIM TO DISCUSS THIS GENERAL SUBJECT, AND HIS SPECIFIC

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PROPOSALS, WITH A POLICY-LEVEL US OFFICIAL DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

7. WE BELIEVE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORMATS IN E MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT WITH FRIEDRICH, AS MIGHT OTHER WASHINGTON OFFICIALS.

8. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FRIEDRICH IS NOT APPARENTLY THINKING OF A CLASSICAL WESTERN AID OPERATION, IN WHICH THE US SUPPLIES ALMOST ALL THE MONEY. THE DCM POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT IT WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE IMPACT IN THE UNITED STATES IF A PROGRAM OF THIS KIND WERE A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE AND A MAJOR EUROPEAN EFFORT. FRIEDRICH AGREED. END COMMENT. MEEHAN UNQUOTE
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